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Agriculture development and food security

Report of the Second Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2009, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Agriculture development and food security" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 19th, 20th, 21st, 33rd and 41st meetings, on 22 and 23 October, 10 November and 9 December 2009. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/64/SR.19, 20, 21, 33 and 41). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 7th meetings, from 5 to 7 October (see A/C.2/64/SR.2-7).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on agriculture development and food security (A/64/221);

(b) Letter dated 6 March 2009 from the representative of the Sudan to the Secretary-General (A/64/65);

(c) Letter dated 30 September 2009 from the representative of the Sudan to the Secretary-General (A/64/489).

4. At the 19th meeting, on 22 October, an introductory statement was made by the Chief of the Global Policy Branch, Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (see A/C.2/64/SR.19).

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II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/64/L.27 and A/C.2/64/L.68

5. At the 33rd meeting, on 10 November, the representative of the Sudan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Agriculture development and food security" (A/C.2/64/L.27), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Welcoming* the establishment of the agenda item and the discussions that have been undertaken on agriculture development and food security in the General Assembly,

"*Recalling* the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,

"*Reaffirming* the goal set out in paragraph 19 of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

"*Recalling* the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action, the Declaration of the World Food Summit: five years later, including the goal of achieving food security for all through an ongoing effort to eradicate hunger in all countries, with an immediate view to reducing by half the number of undernourished people by no later than 2015, as well as the commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Recognizing* that agriculture plays a crucial role in addressing the needs of a growing global population and is inextricably linked to poverty eradication, especially in developing countries, and stressing that integrated and sustainable agriculture and rural development approaches are therefore essential to achieving enhanced food security and food safety in an environmentally sustainable way,

"*Concerned* that the number of people living in hunger is increasing and that global food security is facing the greatest challenge in modern history, affecting more than one billion people in the world, mostly in developing countries,

"*Reaffirming* the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, so as to be able to fully develop and maintain his or her physical and mental capacities,

"*Taking note*, in this regard, of the recommendations contained in the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to

Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, adopted by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in November 2004, including the recommendations on international measures, actions and commitments,

"*Recognizing* that addressing the multifaceted causes of food insecurity requires a comprehensive approach and the adoption of lasting political, economic, social, financial and technical solutions, involving all stakeholders,

"*Recognizing also* the importance of an enabling international and national environment to increase and sustain investment in the agriculture sector of developing countries, and the need to ensure that trade is supportive of agriculture through greater market access and the elimination of trade-distorting subsidies,

"*Emphasizing* the urgent need to increase efforts at the national, regional and international level to address food security and agriculture development as an integral part of the international development agenda,

"*Recognizing* the need to strengthen multilateral coordination for food security, including enhancing the coherence, coordination, efficiency and effectiveness of policies and actions taken to address food security by all actors at all levels of the food chain, building on existing structures,

"*Recognizing also*, in this regard, that a reformed Committee on World Food Security is the central United Nations political platform dealing with food security and nutrition,

"*Remaining deeply concerned* at the high volatility of global food prices, including in basic food commodities, owing to, inter alia, structural and systemic problems,

"*Remaining deeply concerned* about the impact of the global financial and economic crisis, climate change and the ongoing food crisis on agricultural development and food security, in particular in developing countries, and reiterating that the multiple and complex causes require a comprehensive and coordinated response in the short, medium and long term by national Governments and the international community,

"*Remaining concerned* that volatile food prices and the global multidimensional crises pose a serious challenge to the fight against poverty and hunger, as well as to the efforts of developing countries to attain food security and achieve the objective of reducing by half the number of undernourished people by no later than 2015 as well as other internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and reiterating that the global food crisis has multiple and complex causes and that its consequences require a comprehensive and coordinated response in the short, medium and long term by national Governments and the international community,

"*Taking note with appreciation* of the work undertaken by relevant international bodies and organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme, on agricultural development and enhancing food security,

"*Noting* the establishment by the Secretary-General of the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis,

"*Welcoming* the outcome of the seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development on the thematic cluster of issues on agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa,

"*Taking note* of the final Declaration adopted at the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Porto Alegre, Brazil, on 10 March 2006,

"*Emphasizing* that the United Nations can play an effective role in building a global consensus in addressing agricultural development and food security,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on agriculture development and food security;

"2. *Stresses* that food security is central to poverty eradication, public health and sustainable economic growth, and that addressing food security requires a comprehensive approach which includes, inter alia, increasing agricultural productivity in developing countries, stimulus to pre- and post-harvest interventions, ensuring adequate financial resources for developing countries, transfer of technology, access to resources by smallholders, indigenous peoples, women and families, strengthening the social safety net, preservation of the natural resource base, expansion of employment, decent work opportunities, knowledge and training, increased trade flows and support for good governance and policy reform;

"3. *Also stresses* that achieving food security for all requires strengthening and revitalizing the agricultural sector in developing countries, including through enhanced international support, an enabling environment at all levels and the empowerment of small-scale farmers, indigenous peoples and other rural communities;

"4. *Underscores* the importance of enhancing synergies between agriculture and development policies and strategies at both the national and international levels, including by prioritizing and mainstreaming agriculture into development policies;

"5. *Encourages* efforts of the international community to create a strong enabling environment for enhancing agricultural production, productivity and sustainability, developing strong agricultural value chains and improving farmers' and agro-industry access to and participation in markets;

"6. *Welcomes* the strengthening of cooperation between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme in promoting agricultural development and food security, and encourages them to work closely with all other relevant United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations, the international financial institutions and international trade, financial and economic institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector;

"7. *Expresses* its support for initiatives and actions to strengthen governance for agricultural development and food security, drawing and building upon existing structures, and for the recently agreed upon reform of the Committee on World Food Security, as a central component of the evolving global partnership for agriculture, food security and nutrition, to constitute the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for a broad range of committed stakeholders to work together in a coordinated manner and in support of country-led processes towards the elimination of hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition for all human beings;

"8. *Welcomes* the convening of the World Summit on Food Security in Rome from 16 to 18 November 2009;

"9. *Underlines* the need for sustained and predictable funding and increased targeted investment to enhance world food production, and calls for new and additional financial resources from all sources to achieve sustainable agricultural development and food security;

"10. *Stresses* the urgent need to reverse the declining trend of the share of agriculture in total official development assistance and in lending portfolios of international financial institutions and regional development banks;

"11. *Calls for* actions at the national, regional and international levels to intensify public and private investment in the agriculture sector, including through public-private partnerships;

"12. *Encourages* international, regional and national efforts to strengthen the capacity of developing countries, and particularly their small-scale producers, to enhance the productivity of food crops, and to promote sustainable practices in pre-harvest and post-harvest agricultural activities;

"13. *Underscores* the importance of support for agriculture research, and calls for continued support for international agricultural research systems, especially for increasing productivity and sustainable agriculture in food crops, including through the international research centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, as well as other relevant international research organizations;

"14. *Recognizes* that appropriate, affordable and sustainable agriculture technology can play an important role in helping developing countries eradicate poverty and hunger and achieving global food security, and calls upon the international community to make greater efforts to promote the development and transfer of appropriate technologies and know-how to developing countries;

"15. *Stresses* the importance of strengthening North-South as well as South-South and triangular cooperation, and enhancing support from the United Nations development system in promoting cooperation in agriculture development and food security;

"16. *Encourages* the international community to intensify its support for developing countries' efforts to establish and strengthen national social safety nets and protection programmes for the needy and vulnerable, such as food and cash for work, cash transfer and voucher programmes, school feeding programmes and mother-and-child nutrition programmes;

"17. *Underlines* that a rules-based international trading system that is universal, open, undistorted, non-discriminatory, equitable and fair, especially in agriculture products, will promote agriculture and rural development in developing countries and contribute to world food security, and urges national, regional and international strategies to promote the participation of farmers, especially smallholders and women, in community, domestic, regional and international markets;

"18. *Expresses* concern that despite significant efforts, the Doha Development Agenda of multilateral trade negotiations has not yet been concluded, and recognizing the urgency of and reaffirming its commitment to reaching a successful and timely conclusion to the Doha Round of World Trade Organization negotiations with an ambitious, balanced and development-oriented outcome;

"19. *Recognizes* that greater international market access is also critical, that there is still a long way to go to achieve the sort of pro-development trade policies which are meant to be the outcome of the Doha Development Round, that further progress is urgently needed in opening agricultural markets, notably the markets of developed countries to the agricultural exports of developing ones, and in reducing trade-distorting subsidies, and that all countries need to be cognizant of and seek to address the particular market access needs and concerns of the least developed countries, landlocked countries and small island developing States;

"20. *Calls for* the immediate elimination of all forms of agricultural subsidies and other market-distorting measures by developed countries, and urges the developed countries to demonstrate the necessary flexibility and political will to address meaningfully these key concerns of developing countries at the Doha Round of trade negotiations;

"21. *Recognizes* the need for Africa to embark on a green revolution to help boost agricultural productivity, food production and regional food security, and welcomes the fact that strong leadership has been taken by African countries to address the challenges of sustainable agricultural development and to achieve food security through initiatives, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, that can provide an effective framework for ensuring that resources are targeted to a country's plans and priorities, and calls upon the international community to support Africa in the implementation of the various programmes under the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

"22. *Notes* the adoption of the Windhoek High-level Ministerial Declaration on African Agriculture in the Twenty-first Century: Meeting the Challenges, Making a Sustainable Green Revolution, on 10 February 2009, and the holding of the Presidential Summit on Sovereignty and Food Security: Foods for Life in Managua on 7 May 2008;

"23. *Reaffirms* its commitments to promote and protect, without discrimination, the economic, social and cultural rights of indigenous peoples in accordance with international human rights obligations and, taking into account, as appropriate, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of

Indigenous Peoples, acknowledges that many indigenous organizations and representatives of indigenous communities have expressed in different forums their deep concerns over the obstacles and challenges they face for the full enjoyment of the right to food, and calls upon States to take special actions to combat the root causes of the disproportionately high level of hunger and malnutrition among indigenous peoples and the continuous discrimination against them;

"24. *Reiterates* the importance of developing countries determining their own food security strategies in their efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger and acknowledges national and regional efforts by developing countries to implement long-term policies and measures that contribute to food security and agricultural development, such as the food security fund of some Latin American and Caribbean countries, the Latin American and the Caribbean without Hunger Initiative, the Sirte Declaration on Investing in Agriculture for Economic Growth and Food Security, adopted at the thirteenth ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 3 July 2009, the Emergency Programme for Arab Food Security launched at the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit, held in Kuwait on 19 and 20 January 2009, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Food Security Reserve, and the Integrated Food Security Framework and Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations;

"25. *Underscores* the importance of the initiatives and commitments undertaken by the international community to enhance development of the agricultural sector and food security in developing countries, and of their full realization and implementation in a timely and reliable manner;

"26. *Takes note* of the commitments made at the Group of Eight Summit held in L'Aquila, Italy, from 8 to 10 July 2009, to scale up actions and to act with urgency to achieve sustainable global food security, and calls for the timely realization of the commitment to increase aid to agriculture and food security by 20 billion dollars over three years;

"27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to it at its sixty-fifth session on developments related to issues highlighted in the present resolution."

6. At its 41st meeting, on 9 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Agriculture development and food security" (A/C.2/64/L.68), submitted by the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Carlos Enrique García González (El Salvador), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.27.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

8. Also at the same meeting, the Vice-Chairperson orally corrected operative paragraph 27 of draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.68.

9. At its 41st meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally corrected (see para. 12).

10. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the Sudan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Brazil and Cuba.

11. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.68, draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.27 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

12. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Agriculture development and food security

The General Assembly,

Welcoming the establishment of the agenda item and the discussions that have been undertaken on agriculture development and food security in the General Assembly,

Welcoming also the convening of the World Summit on Food Security in Rome from 16 to 18 November 2009,

Recalling the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[1] Agenda 21,[2] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[3] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[4] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[5] the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[6] the 2005 World Summit Outcome[7] and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[8]

Reaffirming the goal set out in paragraph 19 of the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[9] to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

Recalling the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action,[10] the Declaration of the World Food Summit: five years later,[11] including the goal of achieving food security for all through an ongoing effort to eradicate hunger in all countries, with an immediate view to reducing by

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[6] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[7] See resolution 60/1.

[8] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[9] See resolution 55/2.

[10] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the World Food Summit, 13-17 November 1996* (WFS 96/REP), part one, appendix.

[11] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the World Food Summit: five years later, 10-13 June 2002*, part one, appendix; see also A/57/499, annex.

half the number of undernourished people by no later than 2015, as well as the commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

Welcoming the outcome of the seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development on the thematic cluster of issues on agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa,[12]

Recognizing that agriculture plays a crucial role in addressing the needs of a growing global population and is inextricably linked to poverty eradication, especially in developing countries, and stressing that integrated and sustainable agriculture and rural development approaches are therefore essential to achieving enhanced food security and food safety in an environmentally sustainable way,

Expressing concern that the number of people suffering from hunger and poverty now exceeds one billion, which is an unacceptable blight on the lives, livelihoods and dignity of one sixth of the world's population, mostly in developing countries, and noting that the effects of long-standing underinvestment in food security, agriculture, and rural development have recently been further exacerbated by the food, financial and economic crises, among other factors,

Striving for a world free from hunger in which countries implement the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, adopted by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in November 2008,[13] and supporting the practical application of the guidelines based on the principles of participation, transparency and accountability,

Recognizing the importance of an enabling international and national environment to increase and sustain investment in the agriculture sector of developing countries and to create a more level playing field in agriculture through greater market access, substantial reduction of trade-distorting domestic support, and the parallel elimination of all forms of export subsidies and disciplines on all export measures with equivalent effect in accordance with the mandate from the Doha Work Programme of the World Trade Organization,

Emphasizing the urgent need to increase efforts at the national, regional and international levels to address food security and agriculture development as an integral part of the international development agenda,

Recognizing the need to foster strategic coordination for agriculture development and food security involving all actors at the national, regional and global levels to improve governance, promote better allocation of resources, avoid duplication of efforts and identify response gaps,

Recognizing also that a sense of urgency and a commitment to solving the global food crisis have served as catalysts for strengthening international coordination and governance for food security, through the Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, of which the Committee on World Food Security is a central component, and reiterating that it is essential to enhance global governance, building on existing institutions and fostering effective partnerships,

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[12] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 9* (E/2009/29).

[13] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Session, Rome, 22-27 November 2004* (CL 127/REP), appendix D; see also E/CN.4/2005/131, annex.

Remaining deeply concerned at the high volatility of global food prices, including for basic food commodities, owing to, inter alia, structural and systemic problems,

Remaining deeply concerned also that the global financial and economic crisis, climate change and the food crisis pose a serious challenge to the fight against poverty and hunger, as well as to the efforts of developing countries to attain food security and achieve the objective of reducing by half the number of undernourished people by no later than 2015 as well as other internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and reiterating that the global food crisis has multiple and complex causes and that its consequences require a comprehensive and coordinated response, including the adoption of political, economic, social, financial and technical solutions in the short, medium and long term by national Governments and the international community,

Recognizing the work undertaken by relevant international bodies and organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme, on agricultural development and enhancing food security,

Acknowledging the work undertaken by the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis,

Welcoming the recent appointment of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Food Security and Nutrition,

Taking note of the work to be undertaken, including by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, on the follow-up to the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, in view of its relevance to food security,

Noting the convening of the World Grain Forum on 6 and 7 June 2009 in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation,

Emphasizing that the United Nations can play an effective role in building a global consensus in addressing agriculture development and food security,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on agriculture development and food security;[14]

2. *Welcomes* the adoption of the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security, and notes the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security contained in the Declaration;

3. *Stresses* that food security is central to poverty eradication, public health and sustainable economic growth, and the need for a comprehensive twin-track approach to food security that consists of direct action to immediately tackle hunger for the most vulnerable and medium- and long-term sustainable agricultural, food security, nutrition, and rural development programmes to eliminate the root causes of hunger and poverty, including through the progressive realization of the right to food;

4. *Also stresses* that achieving food security for all has as its core element the strengthening and revitalizing of the agricultural sector in developing countries,

[14] A/64/221.

where it has been identified as a priority by Governments, including through enhanced international support, an enabling environment at all levels and the empowerment of small-scale farmers, indigenous peoples and other rural communities, and stresses the need for the involvement of women, in particular in decision-making;

5. *Underlines* the importance of enhancing synergies between agriculture, food security and development policies and strategies at both the national and international levels, including by prioritizing and mainstreaming agriculture and food security into development policies;

6. *Encourages* efforts at all levels to create a strong enabling environment for enhancing agricultural production, productivity and sustainability, developing strong agricultural value chains and improving farmers' and agro-industry access to and participation in markets;

7. *Welcomes* the strengthening of cooperation between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Food Programme and all other relevant United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations, the international financial institutions and international trade, financial and economic institutions, in accordance with their respective mandates, in order to increase their effectiveness, as well as the strengthening of cooperation with non-governmental organizations and the private sector in promoting and strengthening efforts towards agriculture development and food security;

8. *Expresses its support* for initiatives and actions to strengthen governance for agriculture development and food security and for the Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, which will strive to achieve strategic coordination of efforts at the national, regional and global levels, building on existing structures, ensuring inclusiveness of participation and promoting a genuine bottom-up approach based on field-level experiences and developments;

9. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Committee on World Food Security, as a platform for discussion and coordination to strengthen collaborative action, to ensure that the voices of all relevant stakeholders, particularly those most affected by food insecurity, are heard, supports the important roles of the Committee, particularly in areas of coordination at the global level, policy convergence and facilitated support and advice to countries and regions, and affirms that, within the context of the implementation plan laid down in the reform of the Committee on World Food Security, it will gradually take on additional roles, such as promoting coordination at the national and regional levels, promoting accountability and sharing best practices at all levels, and developing a global strategic framework for food security and nutrition;

10. *Underlines* the need for sustained funding and increased targeted investment to enhance world food production, and calls for new and additional financial resources from all sources to achieve sustainable agriculture development and food security;

11. *Stresses* the urgent need to increase the share of official development assistance devoted to agriculture and food security based on country-led requests, and encourages international financial institutions and regional development banks to do likewise;

12. *Calls for* actions at the national, regional and international levels to intensify public and private investment in the agriculture sector, including through public-private partnerships;

13. *Encourages* international, regional and national efforts to strengthen the capacity of developing countries, in particular their small-scale producers, to enhance the productivity of food crops, and to promote sustainable practices in pre-harvest and post-harvest agricultural activities;

14. *Underlines* the importance of the conservation of, access to, and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources, in accordance with national law and international agreements;

15. *Reaffirms* the need to mobilize the resources needed to increase productivity, including the review, approval and adoption of biotechnology and other new technologies and innovations that are safe, effective and environmentally sustainable;

16. *Promotes* research for food and agriculture, including research to adapt to and mitigate climate change, and access to research results and technologies at national, regional and international levels, including through the international research centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, as well as other relevant international and regional research organizations;

17. *Recognizes* that appropriate, affordable and sustainable agriculture technology can play an important role in helping developing countries to eradicate poverty and hunger and achieve global food security, and calls upon the international community to make greater efforts to promote the development and transfer of appropriate technologies and know-how on mutually agreed terms to developing countries;

18. *Stresses* the importance of strengthening North-South, as well as South-South and triangular cooperation, and enhancing support from the United Nations development system in promoting cooperation in agriculture development and food security;

19. *Encourages* efforts at all levels to establish and strengthen social protection measures and programmes, including national social safety nets and protection programmes for the needy and vulnerable, such as food and cash for work, cash transfer and voucher programmes, school feeding programmes and mother-and-child nutrition programmes;

20. *Stresses* that a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system will promote agriculture and rural development in developing countries and contribute to world food security, and urges national, regional and international strategies to promote the participation of farmers, especially smallholders and women, in community, domestic, regional and international markets;

21. *Underlines* the importance of the provision of, and the unhindered access to, safe emergency food and humanitarian assistance and support for the most vulnerable populations, recognizes the value of local purchase of food supplies, which supports local markets, and stresses the need to remove food export restrictions or extraordinary taxes for food purchased for non-commercial humanitarian purposes, and the benefits of consultation and notification of any such new restrictions;

22. *Urges* Member States and international organizations to pursue policies and strategies that improve the functioning of domestic, regional and international markets and ensure equitable access for all, especially smallholders and women farmers from developing countries, notes the importance of non-trade-distorting special measures that are consistent with World Trade Organization rules aimed at creating incentives for smallholder farmers in developing countries to enable them to increase their productivity and compete on a more equal footing on world markets, and urges Member States to refrain from taking measures that are inconsistent with the rules of the World Trade Organization and that have adverse impacts on global, regional and national food security;

23. *Recognizes* the urgency of, and reaffirming its commitment to, reaching a successful and timely conclusion by 2010 to the Doha Round of World Trade Organization negotiations with an ambitious, comprehensive and balanced outcome as a key action to improve food security;

24. *Also recognizes* the need for Africa to embark on a green revolution to help boost agricultural productivity, food production and regional food security, welcomes the strong leadership taken by African countries in undertaking initiatives to address the challenges of sustainable agricultural development and to achieve food security, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, that can provide a framework through which support for agriculture and food security can be coordinated, and calls upon the international community to support Africa in the implementation of the various programmes under the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

25. *Reaffirms* the commitment to a crucial, decisive shift towards increased short-, medium- and long-term national and international investment in agriculture in developing countries, welcomes the commitment made by African leaders in the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa to raise the share of agriculture and rural development in their budget expenditures to at least 10 per cent, and encourages other geographical regions to adopt similar quantitative, time-bound commitments;

26. *Notes*, in this regard, the adoption of the Windhoek High-level Ministerial Declaration on African Agriculture in the Twenty-first Century: Meeting the Challenges, Making a Sustainable Green Revolution, on 10 February 2009;[15]

27. *Notes* the challenges faced by indigenous peoples in the context of food security and, in this regard, calls upon States to take special actions to combat the root causes of the disproportionately high level of hunger and malnutrition among indigenous peoples;

28. *Reiterates* the importance of developing countries determining their own food security strategies, that food security is a national responsibility, and that any plans for addressing food security challenges and eradication of poverty in relation to food security must be nationally articulated, designed, owned and led, and built on consultation with all key stakeholders, and urges Member States to make food security a high priority and reflect this in their national programmes and budgets;

29. *Acknowledges* in this regard national and regional efforts by developing countries to implement long-term policies and measures that contribute to food

[15] See A/63/740, annex.

security and agricultural development, such as the food security fund of some Latin American and Caribbean countries, the Latin American and the Caribbean without Hunger Initiative, the Presidential Summit on Sovereignty and Food Security: Foods for Life, held in Managua on 7 May 2008, the Sirte Declaration on Investing in Agriculture for Economic Growth and Food Security, adopted at the thirteenth ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 3 July 2009, the Emergency Programme for Arab Food Security launched at the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit, held in Kuwait on 19 and 20 January 2009, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Food Security Reserve, and the Integrated Food Security Framework and Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations;

30. *Underlines* the importance of the initiatives and commitments undertaken by the international community to enhance development of the agricultural sector and food security in developing countries, and of their full realization and implementation in a timely and reliable manner;

31. *Welcomes*, in that regard, the commitments made at the Group of Eight Summit held in L'Aquila, Italy, from 8 to 10 July 2009, to act with the scale and urgency needed to achieve sustainable global food security,[16] and welcomes the commitments made by the countries represented at L'Aquila towards a goal of mobilizing 20 billion dollars over three years through this coordinated, comprehensive strategy focused on sustainable agriculture development;

32. *Invites* all members of the international community, including international and regional financial institutions, and urges relevant bodies within the United Nations system, to cooperate actively in a coordinated manner in the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit on Food Security adopted in Rome in November 2009;

33. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that a coordinated follow-up at the field level to the World Summit on Food Security is undertaken in the context of the resident coordinator system, taking into account the coordinated follow-up to United Nations major international conferences;

34. *Invites* the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security to report, as part of the Committee's report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the reform of and on progress made towards achieving the vision of the Committee;

35. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on developments related to issues highlighted in the present resolution and the progress of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit on Food Security;

36. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled "Agriculture development and food security", to be allocated to the Second Committee.

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[16] See A/63/927-S/2009/358, annex.

United Nations A/64/428

General Assembly

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Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 118

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Denise **McQuade** (Ireland)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2009, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly" and to allocate it to all the Main Committees for the sole purpose of considering and taking action on their respective tentative programmes of work.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 42nd meeting, on 11 December 2009 (see A/C.2/64/SR.42).

II. Consideration of draft decisions

A. Draft decision contained in document A/C.2/64/L.73

3. At its 42nd meeting, on 11 December, the Committee had before it the draft programme of work of the Second Committee for the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly (A/C.2/64/L.73), which had been submitted by the Chairperson on the basis of consultations held with the Bureau of the Committee.

4. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee orally corrected the draft programme of work of the Second Committee for the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly (see A/C.2/64/SR.42).

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted its draft programme of work for the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, as contained in document A/C.2/64/L.73, as orally corrected, and recommended its approval by the General Assembly (see para. 9, draft decision I).

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B. Oral decision

6. At its 42nd meeting, on 11 December, the Chairman orally proposed to the Committee the adoption of the following draft decision entitled "Rotation of the post of Rapporteur of the Second Committee":

> "The General Assembly decides that, in order to rationalize further its methods of work for subsequent sessions of the Assembly, the Second Committee should endeavour to elect its Rapporteur on the basis of his or her experience and personal competence and on the basis of rotation among the regional groups as follows: African States, Asian States, Eastern European States, Latin American and Caribbean States and Western European and Other States."

7. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft decision had no programme budget implications (see A/C.2/64/SR.42).

8. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see para. 9, draft decision II).

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Programme of work of the Second Committee for the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly approves the programme of work of the Second Committee for the sixty-fifth session of the Assembly as set out below:

1. Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources.
2. Information and communications technologies for development.
3. Macroeconomic policy questions:
   (a) International trade and development;
   (b) International financial system and development;
   (c) External debt crisis and development.
4. Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 Review Conference.
5. Sustainable development:
   (a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;
   (b) Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

(c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind;

(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;

(f) Convention on Biological Diversity;

(g) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eleventh special session;

(h) United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development;

(i) Harmony with Nature.

6. Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

7. Globalization and interdependence:

(a) Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence;

(b) Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

(c) International migration and development.

8. Groups of countries in special situations:

(a) Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

(b) Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation.

9. Eradication of poverty and other development issues:

(a) Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017);

(b) Industrial development cooperation.

10. Operational activities for development: operational activities for development of the United Nations system.

11. Agriculture development and food security.

Draft decision II
Rotation of the post of Rapporteur of the Second Committee

The General Assembly decides that, in order to rationalize further its methods of work for subsequent sessions of the Assembly, the Second Committee should endeavour to elect its Rapporteur on the basis of his or her experience and personal competence and on the basis of rotation among the regional groups as follows: African States, Asian States, Eastern European States, Latin American and Caribbean States and Western European and Other States.

United Nations A/64/429

General Assembly

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Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 133

Programme planning

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Denise **McQuade** (Ireland)

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2009, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Programme planning" and to allocate it to all the Main Committees and the plenary to enhance the discussion of evaluation, planning, budgeting and monitoring reports.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 32nd meeting, on 5 November 2009, and decided to keep the agenda item open until the conclusion of the Committee's work (see A/C.2/64/SR.32).

3. At its 42nd meeting, on 11 December, the Committee decided that no action on the agenda item was required (see A/C.2/64/SR.42).

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United Nations A/64/430

General Assembly

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14 December 2009

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Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 170

United Nations University

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Denise **McQuade** (Ireland)

I. Introduction

1. At its 52nd plenary meeting, on 1 December 2009, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "United Nations University" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 38th and 40th meetings, on 1 and 4 December 2009. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/64/SR.38 and 40). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 7th meetings, from 5 to 7 October (see A/C.2/64/SR.2-7).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.55

3. At the 38th meeting, on 1 December, the representative of Germany introduced a draft resolution entitled "Amendments to the Charter of the United Nations University", which was contained in annex II to document A/64/234.

4. At its 40th meeting, on 4 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Amendments to the Charter of the United Nations University" (A/C.2/64/L.55), submitted by Germany on behalf of Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Belarus, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, China, Colombia, the Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Eritrea, Finland, the Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Maldives, Mali, Micronesia (Federated States of), Montenegro, Namibia, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Saint

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III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

10. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Amendments to the Charter of the United Nations University

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2951 (XXVII) of 11 December 1972, by which it decided to establish the United Nations University, and 3081 (XXVIII) of 6 December 1973, by which it adopted the Charter of the United Nations University, and taking note of the resolutions adopted since then on the progress of the University,

Taking note of the decision on the United Nations University adopted by the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its 182nd session, held in Paris in September 2009,[1]

Taking note also of the proposal adopted by the Council of the United Nations University at its fifty-fifth session, in December 2008, for the United Nations University to build upon its existing joint graduate programmes and to develop and implement its own postgraduate degree programmes as a part of the United Nations University strategic plan 2009-2012,

Taking note further of the proposal of the Secretary-General to amend the Charter of the United Nations University in accordance with article XII thereof, made after consultation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Council of the United Nations University,

1. *Approves* the following amendments to the Charter of the United Nations University:

(a) A new paragraph 8 shall be added to article I, to read as follows:

"8. The University shall grant and confer master's degrees and doctorates, diplomas, certificates and other academic distinctions under conditions laid down for that purpose in the statutes by the Council";

(b) A new paragraph 2 bis shall be added to article IX, to read as follows:

"2 bis. The costs of the postgraduate degree programmes of the University as referred to in article I, paragraph 8, above may also be met from tuition fees and related charges";

2. *Invites* the Council of the United Nations University to adopt such statutes as may be necessary to implement these amendments.

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[1] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Decisions Adopted by the Executive Board at its One Hundred and Eighty-second Session, Paris, 7-23 September 2009* (182 EX/Decisions, decision 11).

United Nations A/64/431

General Assembly

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2 December 2009

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Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 41

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Nicola **Hill** (New Zealand)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2009, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 38th to 41st and 46th meetings, on 3, 10, 12 and 23 November 2009. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/64/SR.38-41 and 46).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[1]

(b) Report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[2]

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa (A/64/330).

4. At the 38th meeting, on 3 November, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees made an introductory statement, and engaged in a dialogue with the

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/64/12).
[2] Ibid., *Supplement No 12A* (A/64/12/Add.1).

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representatives of Ethiopia, the Sudan, Finland, Yemen, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Australia, Zimbabwe, Serbia, China, Kenya, Egypt, Pakistan and Morocco (see A/C.3/64/SR.38).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/64/L.52

5. At the 40th meeting, on 10 November, the representative of Finland, on behalf of Afghanistan, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Zambia, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (A/C.3/64/L.52). Subsequently, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Colombia, the Comoros, the Congo, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Israel, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Swaziland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At its 41st meeting, on 12 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/64/L.52 without a vote (see para. 15, draft resolution I).

7. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Finland made a statement (see A/C.3/64/SR.41).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/64/L.58

8. At the 40th meeting, on 10 November, the representative of Slovenia, on behalf of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt and Slovenia, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (A/C.3/64/L.58). Subsequently, Afghanistan, Albania, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Cameroon, Chile, Ecuador, Mali, Morocco, the Sudan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

9. At its 41st meeting, on 12 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/64/L.58 without a vote (see para. 15, draft resolution II).

10. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Slovenia made a statement (see A/C.3/64/SR.41).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/64/L.59 and Rev.1

11. At the 41st meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Sierra Leone, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States, as well as Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain and Sweden, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa" (A/C.3/64/L.59). Subsequently, Albania, Australia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* the Organization of African Unity Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa of 1969 and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,

"*Reaffirming* that the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, together with the 1967 Protocol thereto, as complemented by the Organization of African Unity Convention of 1969, remains the foundation of the international refugee protection regime in Africa,

"*Recognizing* the particular vulnerability of women and children among refugees and other persons of concern, including exposure to discrimination and sexual and physical abuse,

"*Gravely concerned* by the deteriorating conditions in some of the refugee camps in Africa, and recognizing that refugees, internally displaced persons and, in particular, women and children are at an increased risk of exposure to HIV/AIDS, malaria and other infectious diseases,

"*Welcoming* the adoption by the African Union during the Special Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, held in Kampala on 22 and 23 October 2009, of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa,

"*Noting with appreciation* the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region and its instruments, in particular two of the protocols to the Pact which are relevant to the protection of displaced persons, namely, the Protocol on the Protection of and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons, and the Protocol on the Property Rights of Returning Persons,

"1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

"2. *Encourages* African Member States that have not yet signed or ratified the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa to consider doing so as early as possible in order to ensure its early entry into force and implementation;

"3. *Welcomes* the fortieth anniversary on 10 September 2009 of the 1969 Organization of African Unity Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa;

"4. *Notes* the need for African Member States to address resolutely root causes of all forms of forced displacement in Africa and to foster peace, stability and prosperity throughout the African continent so as to forestall refugee flows;

"5. *Notes with great concern* that, despite all of the efforts made so far by the United Nations, the African Union and others, the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Africa remains precarious, and calls upon States and other parties to armed conflict to observe scrupulously the letter and spirit of international humanitarian law, bearing in mind that armed conflict is one of the principal causes of forced displacement in Africa;

"6. *Welcomes* decision EX.CL/Dec.494 (XV) on the situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa, adopted by the Executive Council of the African Union at its fifteenth ordinary session, held in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, from 28 to 30 June 2009;

"7. *Expresses its appreciation* for the leadership shown by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and commends the Office for its ongoing efforts, with the support of the international community, to assist African countries of asylum and to respond to the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa;

"8. *Notes with appreciation* the initiatives taken by the African Union, the Permanent Representatives Committee Subcommittee on Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons, and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, in particular the role of its Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, to ensure protection and assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa;

"9. *Acknowledges* the important contribution of the age, gender and diversity mainstreaming strategy in identifying, through a participatory approach, the protection risks faced by the different members of the refugee community, in particular the non-discriminatory treatment and protection of refugee women and refugee children and minority groups of refugees;

"10. *Affirms* that children, because of their age, social status and physical and mental development, are often more vulnerable than adults in situations of forced displacement, recognizes that forced displacement, return to post-conflict situations, integration in new societies, protracted situations of displacement and statelessness can increase child-protection risks, taking into account the particular vulnerability of refugee children to forcible exposure to the risks of physical and psychological injury, exploitation and death in connection with armed conflict, and acknowledges that wider environmental factors and individual risk factors, particularly when combined, may generate different protection needs;

"11. *Recognizes* that no solution to displacement can be durable unless it is sustainable, and therefore encourages the Office of the High Commissioner to support the sustainability of return and reintegration;

"12. *Also recognizes* the importance of early registration and effective registration systems and censuses as a tool of protection and as a means to the quantification and assessment of needs for the provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance and to implement appropriate durable solutions;

"13. *Recalls* the conclusion on registration of refugees and asylum-seekers adopted by the Executive Committee at its fifty-second session, notes the many forms of harassment faced by refugees and asylum-seekers who remain without any form of documentation attesting to their status, recalls the responsibility of States to register refugees on their territories, and, as appropriate, the responsibility of the Office of the High Commissioner or mandated international bodies to do so, reiterates in this context the central role that early and effective registration and documentation can play, guided by protection considerations, in enhancing protection and supporting efforts to find durable solutions, and calls upon the Office, as appropriate, to help States to conduct this procedure should they be unable to register refugees on their territory;

"14. *Calls upon* the international community, including States and the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant United Nations organizations, within their respective mandates, to take concrete action to meet the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons and to contribute generously to projects and programmes aimed at alleviating their plight and facilitating durable solutions for refugees and displaced persons;

"15. *Reaffirms* the importance of timely and adequate assistance and protection for refugees, returnees and displaced persons, also reaffirms that assistance and protection are mutually reinforcing and that inadequate material assistance and food shortages undermine protection, notes the importance of a rights- and community-based approach in engaging constructively with individual refugees, returnees and displaced persons and their communities so as to achieve fair and equitable access to food and other forms of material assistance, and expresses concern in regard to situations in which minimum standards of assistance are not met, including those in which adequate needs assessments have yet to be undertaken;

"16. *Also reaffirms* that respect by States for their protection responsibilities towards refugees is strengthened by international solidarity involving all members of the international community and that the refugee protection regime is enhanced through committed international cooperation in a spirit of solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing among all States;

"17. *Further reaffirms* that host States have the primary responsibility to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, calls upon States, in cooperation with international organizations, within their mandates, to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection and, in particular, to ensure that the civilian and humanitarian nature of refugee camps is not compromised by the presence or the activities of armed

elements or used for purposes that are incompatible with their civilian character, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue efforts, in consultation with States and other relevant actors, to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of camps;

"18. *Condemns* all acts that pose a threat to the personal security and well-being of refugees and asylum-seekers, such as refoulement, unlawful expulsion and physical attacks, calls upon States of refuge, in cooperation with international organizations, where appropriate, to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection, including the humane treatment of asylum-seekers, notes with interest that the High Commissioner has continued to take steps to encourage the development of measures to better ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue those efforts, in consultation with States and other relevant actors;

"19. *Deplores* the continuing violence and insecurity which constitute an ongoing threat to the safety and security of staff members of the Office of the High Commissioner and other humanitarian organizations and an obstacle to the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Office and the ability of its implementing partners and other humanitarian personnel to discharge their respective humanitarian functions, urges States, parties to conflict and all other relevant actors to take all necessary measures to protect activities related to humanitarian assistance, prevent attacks on and kidnapping of national and international humanitarian workers and ensure the safety and security of the personnel and property of the Office and that of all humanitarian organizations discharging functions mandated by the Office, and calls upon States to investigate fully any crime committed against humanitarian personnel and bring to justice the persons responsible for such crimes;

"20. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the African Union, subregional organizations and all African States, in conjunction with agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the international community, to strengthen and revitalize existing partnerships and forge new ones in support of the protection system for refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced persons;

"21. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the international community and other concerned entities to intensify their support to African Governments through appropriate capacity-building activities, including training of relevant officers, disseminating information about refugee instruments and principles, providing financial, technical and advisory services to accelerate the enactment or amendment and implementation of legislation relating to refugees, strengthening emergency response and enhancing capacities for the coordination of humanitarian activities, in particular those Governments that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers;

"22. *Reaffirms* the right of return and the principle of voluntary repatriation, appeals to countries of origin and countries of asylum to create conditions that are conducive to voluntary repatriation, and recognizes that, while voluntary repatriation remains the pre-eminent solution, local integration and third-country resettlement, where appropriate and feasible, are also viable

options for dealing with the situation of African refugees who, owing to prevailing circumstances in their respective countries of origin, are unable to return home;

"23. *Also reaffirms* that voluntary repatriation should not necessarily be conditioned on the accomplishment of political solutions in the country of origin in order not to impede the exercise of the refugees' right to return, recognizes that the voluntary repatriation and reintegration process is normally guided by the conditions in the country of origin, in particular that voluntary repatriation can be accomplished in conditions of safety and dignity, and urges the High Commissioner to promote sustainable return through the development of durable and lasting solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations;

"24. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide financial and material assistance that allows for the implementation of community-based development programmes that benefit both refugees and host communities, as appropriate, in agreement with host countries and consistent with humanitarian objectives;

"25. *Appeals* to the international community to respond positively, in the spirit of solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to the third-country resettlement needs of African refugees, notes in this regard the importance of using resettlement strategically, as part of situation-specific comprehensive responses to refugee situations, and to this end encourages States, the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant partners to make full use of the Multilateral Framework of Understandings on Resettlement, where appropriate;

"26. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide material and financial assistance for the implementation of programmes intended for the rehabilitation of the environment and infrastructure affected by refugees in countries of asylum as well as internally displaced persons where appropriate;

"27. *Urges* the international community, in the spirit of international solidarity and burden-sharing, to continue to fund generously the refugee programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner and, taking into account the substantially increased needs of programmes in Africa, inter alia as a result of repatriation possibilities, to ensure that Africa receives a fair and equitable share of the resources designated for refugees;

"28. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner and interested States to identify protracted refugee situations which might lend themselves to resolution through the development of specific, multilateral, comprehensive and practical approaches to resolving such refugee situations, including improvement of international burden- and responsibility-sharing and realization of durable solutions, within a multilateral context;

"29. *Expresses grave concern* about the plight of internally displaced persons in Africa, notes the efforts of African States in strengthening the regional mechanisms for protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, calls upon States to take concrete action to pre-empt internal displacement and to meet the protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons, recalls in that regard the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, takes note of the current activities of the Office of the High

Commissioner related to protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions and should not undermine the refugee mandate of the Office and the institution of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his dialogue with States on the role of his Office in this regard;

"30. *Invites* the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons to continue his ongoing dialogue with Member States and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in accordance with his mandate, and to include information thereon in his reports to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly;

"31. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session, taking fully into account the efforts expended by countries of asylum, under the item entitled 'Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions'."

12. At its 46th meeting, on 23 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.3/64/L.59/Rev.1) submitted by Albania, Australia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zambia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States). Subsequently, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, the Czech Republic, France, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Lithuania, Mexico and the United States of America joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

13. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/64/L.59/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 15, draft resolution III).

14. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Sierra Leone made a statement (see A/C.3/64/SR.46).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

15. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office[1] and the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its sixtieth session[2] and the decisions contained therein,

Recalling its previous annual resolutions on the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees since its establishment by the General Assembly,

Expressing its appreciation for the leadership shown by the High Commissioner, commending the staff and implementing partners of the Office of the High Commissioner for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities, and underlining its strong condemnation of all forms of violence to which humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel are increasingly exposed,

1. *Endorses* the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its sixtieth session;[2]

2. *Welcomes* the important work undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its Executive Committee in the course of the year, which is aimed at strengthening the international protection regime and at assisting Governments in meeting their protection responsibilities;

3. *Reaffirms* the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees[3] and the 1967 Protocol thereto[4] as the foundation of the international refugee protection regime, recognizes the importance of their full and effective application by States parties and the values they embody, notes with satisfaction that one hundred and forty-seven States are now parties to one instrument or to both, encourages States not parties to consider acceding to those instruments, underlines in particular the importance of full respect for the principle of non-refoulement, and recognizes that a number of States not parties to the international refugee instruments have shown a generous approach to hosting refugees;

4. *Notes* that sixty-five States are now parties to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons[5] and that thirty-seven States are parties to

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/64/12).

[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 12A* (A/64/12/Add.1).

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[4] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

[5] Ibid., vol. 360, No. 5158.

the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,[6] encourages States that have not done so to give consideration to acceding to those instruments, notes the work of the High Commissioner in regard to identifying stateless persons, preventing and reducing statelessness and protecting stateless persons, and urges the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to work in this area in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and Executive Committee conclusions;

5. *Takes note* of the sixtieth anniversary of the Geneva Conventions[7] and the fortieth anniversary of the Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa,[8] commemorated in 2009;

6. *Re-emphasizes* that the protection of refugees is primarily the responsibility of States, whose full and effective cooperation, action and political resolve are required to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to fulfil its mandated functions, and strongly emphasizes, in this context, the importance of active international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing;

7. *Also re-emphasizes* that prevention and reduction of statelessness are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community;

8. *Further re-emphasizes* that protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community;

9. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to pursue its efforts to strengthen its capacity to respond adequately to emergencies and thereby ensure a more predictable response to inter-agency commitments in case of emergency;

10. *Takes note* of the current activities of the Office of the High Commissioner related to protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions and should not undermine the mandate of the Office for refugees and the institution of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his dialogue with States on the role of his Office in this regard;

11. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to work in partnership and in full cooperation with relevant national authorities, United Nations offices and agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the continued development of humanitarian response capacities at all levels, and recalls the role of the Office of the High Commissioner as the cluster lead for protection, camp coordination and management, and emergency shelter in complex emergencies;

12. *Also encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner, among other relevant United Nations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations and humanitarian and development actors, to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance, as stated in General

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[6] Ibid., vol. 989, No. 14458.

[7] Ibid., vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

[8] Ibid., vol. 1001, No. 14691.

Assembly resolution 63/139 of 11 December 2008 on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;

13. *Further encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to engage in and implement in full the objectives of the Delivering as One initiative;

14. *Notes with appreciation* the ongoing implementation of the process of structural and management change undertaken by the Office of the High Commissioner, and encourages the Office to complete the implementation of the reforms process, including the implementation of a results-based management and accountability framework and strategy, as well as human resources reform, and to focus on continuous improvement to enable a more efficient response to the needs of beneficiaries and ensure the effective and transparent use of its resources;

15. *Strongly condemns* attacks on refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced persons as well as acts that pose a threat to their personal security and well-being, and calls upon all concerned States and, where applicable, parties involved in an armed conflict to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for human rights and international humanitarian law;

16. *Expresses deep concern* with the increasing number of attacks against humanitarian aid workers and convoys and, in particular, the loss of life of humanitarian personnel working in the most difficult and challenging conditions in order to assist those in need;

17. *Emphasizes* the need for States to ensure that perpetrators of attacks committed on their territory against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel do not operate with impunity, and that the perpetrators of such acts are promptly brought to justice as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law;

18. *Deplores* the refoulement and unlawful expulsion of refugees and asylum-seekers, and calls upon all concerned States to ensure respect for the relevant principles of refugee protection and human rights;

19. *Emphasizes* that international protection of refugees is a dynamic and action-oriented function that is at the core of the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner and that it includes, in cooperation with States and other partners, the promotion and facilitation of, inter alia, the admission, reception and treatment of refugees in accordance with internationally agreed standards and the ensuring of durable, protection-oriented solutions, bearing in mind the particular needs of vulnerable groups and paying special attention to those with specific needs, and notes in this context that the delivery of international protection is a staff-intensive service that requires adequate staff with the appropriate expertise, especially at the field level;

20. *Affirms* the importance of age, gender and diversity mainstreaming in analysing protection needs and in ensuring the participation of refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, as appropriate, in the planning and implementation of programmes of the Office and State policies, and also affirms the importance of according priority to addressing discrimination, gender inequality and the problem of sexual and gender-based violence, recognizing the importance of addressing the protection needs of women and children in particular;

21. *Strongly reaffirms* the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the High Commissioner of providing international protection to refugees and seeking permanent solutions to refugee problems, and recalls that those solutions include voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement in a third country, while reaffirming that voluntary repatriation, supported, as necessary, by rehabilitation and development assistance to facilitate sustainable reintegration, remains the preferred solution;

22. *Expresses concern* about the particular difficulties faced by the millions of refugees in protracted situations, and emphasizes the need to redouble international efforts and cooperation to find practical and comprehensive approaches to resolving their plight and to realize durable solutions for them, consistent with international law and relevant General Assembly resolutions;

23. *Recognizes* the importance of achieving durable solutions to refugee problems and, in particular, the need to address in this process the root causes of refugee movements in order to avert new flows of refugees;

24. *Welcomes* the initiative of the High Commissioner to convene, in Geneva on 9 and 10 December 2009, the third Dialogue on Protection Challenges, on the theme "Challenges for persons of concern to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in urban settings";

25. *Recalls* the important role of effective partnerships and coordination in meeting the needs of refugees and in finding durable solutions to their situations, welcomes the efforts under way, in cooperation with countries hosting refugees and countries of origin, including their respective local communities, relevant United Nations agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, as appropriate, non-governmental organizations and development actors, to promote a framework for durable solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, which includes an approach to sustainable and timely return which encompasses repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities, and encourages States, in cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and development actors, to support, inter alia, through the allocation of funds, the implementation of such a framework to facilitate an effective transition from relief to development;

26. *Recognizes* that no solution to displacement can be durable unless it is sustainable, and therefore encourages the Office of the High Commissioner to support the sustainability of return and reintegration;

27. *Welcomes* the progress that has been achieved in increasing the number of refugees resettled and the number of States offering opportunities for resettlement, and the contribution that those States make to durable solutions for refugees, and invites interested States, the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant partners to make use of the Multilateral Framework of Understandings on Resettlement,[9] where appropriate and feasible;

28. *Notes with appreciation* the activities undertaken by States to strengthen the regional initiatives that facilitate cooperative policies and approaches on

[9] Available from www.unhcr.org.

refugees, and encourages States to continue their efforts to address, in a comprehensive manner, the needs of the people who require international protection in their respective regions, including the support provided for host communities that receive large numbers of persons who require international protection;

29. *Also notes* the importance of States and the Office of the High Commissioner discussing and clarifying the role of the Office in mixed migratory flows, in order to better address protection needs in the context of mixed migratory flows, including by safeguarding access to asylum for those in need of international protection, and notes the readiness of the High Commissioner, consistent with his mandate, to assist States in fulfilling their protection responsibilities in this regard;

30. *Emphasizes* the obligation of all States to accept the return of their nationals, calls upon States to facilitate the return of their nationals who have been determined not to be in need of international protection, and affirms the need for the return of persons to be undertaken in a safe and humane manner and with full respect for their human rights and dignity, irrespective of the status of the persons concerned;

31. *Expresses deep concern* about the challenges posed by climate change and environmental degradation to the protection activities of the Office of the High Commissioner and the assistance it provides to vulnerable populations of concern across the globe, particularly in least developed countries, and urges the Office to continue to address such challenges in its work, within its mandate, and in consultation with national authorities and in cooperation with competent agencies in its operations;

32. *Notes* the important number of displaced in and from Iraq and its serious impact on the social and economic situation of countries in the region, and calls upon the international community to act in a targeted and coordinated manner to provide protection and increased assistance to the persons displaced to enable the countries in the region to strengthen their capacity to respond to the needs in partnership with the Office of the High Commissioner, other United Nations agencies, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and non-governmental organizations;

33. *Urges* all States and relevant non-governmental and other organizations, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner, in a spirit of international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to cooperate and to mobilize resources with a view to enhancing the capacity of and reducing the heavy burden borne by host countries, in particular those that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers, and calls upon the Office to continue to play its catalytic role in mobilizing assistance from the international community to address the root causes as well as the economic, environmental and social impact of large-scale refugee populations in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition;

34. *Expresses deep concern* with the existing and potential challenges posed by the world financial and economic crisis to the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner;

35. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner to further explore ways and means to broaden its donor base, so as to achieve greater burden-sharing by

reinforcing cooperation with governmental donors, non-governmental donors and the private sector;

36. *Recognizes* that adequate and timely resources are essential for the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to fulfil the mandate conferred upon it through its statute[10] and by subsequent General Assembly resolutions on refugees and other persons of concern, recalls its resolutions 58/153 of 22 December 2003, 58/270 of 23 December 2003, 59/170 of 20 December 2004, 60/129 of 16 December 2005, 61/137 of 19 December 2006, 62/124 of 18 December 2007 and 63/148 of 18 December 2008 concerning, inter alia, the implementation of paragraph 20 of the statute of the Office, and urges Governments and other donors to respond promptly to annual and supplementary appeals issued by the Office for requirements under its programmes;

37. *Requests* the High Commissioner to report on his activities to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session.

[10] Resolution 428 (V), annex.

Draft resolution II
Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council decision 2009/252 of 30 July 2009 concerning the enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Taking note also of the request regarding the enlargement of the Executive Committee contained in the letter dated 10 March 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General,[1]

1. *Decides* to increase the number of members of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from seventy-eight to seventy-nine States;

2. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to elect the additional member at its resumed organizational session for 2010.

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[1] E/2009/47.

Draft resolution III
Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Organization of African Unity Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa of 1969[1] and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,[2]

Reaffirming that the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees,[3] together with the 1967 Protocol thereto,[4] as complemented by the Organization of African Unity Convention of 1969, remains the foundation of the international refugee protection regime in Africa,

Recognizing the particular vulnerability of women and children among refugees and other persons of concern, including exposure to discrimination and sexual and physical abuse,

Gravely concerned by the deteriorating conditions in some of the refugee camps in Africa,

Recognizing that refugees, internally displaced persons and, in particular, women and children are at an increased risk of exposure to HIV/AIDS, malaria and other infectious diseases,

Welcoming the adoption of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, which marks a significant step towards strengthening the national and regional normative framework for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons,

Noting with appreciation the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region[5] and its instruments, in particular two of the protocols to the Pact which are relevant to the protection of displaced persons, namely, the Protocol on the Protection of and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons and the Protocol on the Property Rights of Returning Persons,

Recognizing that host States have the primary responsibility for the protection of and assistance to refugees on their territory, and the need to redouble efforts to develop and implement comprehensive durable solution strategies, in appropriate cooperation with the international community, and burden- and responsibility-sharing,

Emphasizing that States have the primary responsibility to provide protection and assistance to internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction, as well as to address the root causes of the displacement problem in appropriate cooperation with the international community,

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1001, No. 14691.
[2] Ibid., vol. 1520, No. 26363.
[3] Ibid., vol. 189, No. 2545.
[4] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.
[5] Available from www.icglr.org.

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General[6] and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[7]

2. *Calls upon* African Member States that have not yet signed or ratified the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa to consider doing so as early as possible in order to ensure its early entry into force and implementation;

3. *Takes note* of the fortieth anniversary on 10 September 2009 of the Organization of African Unity Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa of 1969;

4. *Notes* the need for African Member States to address resolutely root causes of all forms of forced displacement in Africa and to foster peace, stability and prosperity throughout the African continent so as to forestall flows of refugees;

5. *Notes with great concern* that, despite all of the efforts made so far by the United Nations, the African Union and others, the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Africa remains precarious, and calls upon States and other parties to armed conflict to observe scrupulously the letter and spirit of international humanitarian law, bearing in mind that armed conflict is one of the principal causes of forced displacement in Africa;

6. *Welcomes* decision EX.CL/Dec.494 (XV) on the situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa, adopted by the Executive Council of the African Union at its fifteenth ordinary session, held in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, from 28 to 30 June 2009;[8]

7. *Expresses its appreciation* for the leadership shown by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and commends the Office for its ongoing efforts, with the support of the international community, to assist African countries of asylum, including by providing support to vulnerable local host communities, and to respond to the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa;

8. *Notes with appreciation* the initiatives taken by the African Union, the Subcommittee on Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons of the Permanent Representatives Committee, and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, in particular the role of its Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, to ensure protection and assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa;

9. *Acknowledges* the important contribution of the age, gender and diversity mainstreaming strategy in identifying, through a participatory approach, the protection risks faced by the different members of the refugee community, in particular the non-discriminatory treatment and protection of refugee women and refugee children and minority groups of refugees;

10. *Affirms* that children, because of their age, social status and physical and mental development, are often more vulnerable than adults in situations of forced displacement, recognizes that forced displacement, return to post-conflict situations,

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[6] A/64/330.

[7] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/64/12).

[8] See African Union document EX.CL/Dec.494 (XV) Rev.2.

integration in new societies, protracted situations of displacement and statelessness can increase child-protection risks, taking into account the particular vulnerability of refugee children to forcible exposure to the risks of physical and psychological injury, exploitation and death in connection with armed conflict, and acknowledges that wider environmental factors and individual risk factors, particularly when combined, may generate different protection needs;

11. *Recognizes* that no solution to displacement can be durable unless it is sustainable, and therefore encourages the Office of the High Commissioner to support the sustainability of return and reintegration;

12. *Also recognizes* the importance of early registration and effective registration systems and censuses as a tool of protection and as a means to the quantification and assessment of needs for the provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance and to implement appropriate durable solutions;

13. *Recalls* the conclusion on registration of refugees and asylum-seekers adopted by the Executive Committee at its fifty-second session,[9] notes the many forms of harassment faced by refugees and asylum-seekers who remain without any form of documentation attesting to their status, recalls the responsibility of States to register refugees on their territories, and, as appropriate, the responsibility of the Office of the High Commissioner or mandated international bodies to do so, reiterates in this context the central role that early and effective registration and documentation can play, guided by protection considerations, in enhancing protection and supporting efforts to find durable solutions, and calls upon the Office, as appropriate, to help States to conduct this procedure should they be unable to register refugees on their territory;

14. *Calls upon* the international community, including States and the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant United Nations organizations, within their respective mandates, to take concrete action to meet the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons and to contribute generously to projects and programmes aimed at alleviating their plight, facilitating durable solutions for refugees and displaced persons, and supporting vulnerable local host communities;

15. *Reaffirms* the importance of timely and adequate assistance and protection for refugees, returnees and displaced persons, also reaffirms that assistance and protection are mutually reinforcing and that inadequate material assistance and food shortages undermine protection, notes the importance of a rights- and community-based approach in engaging constructively with individual refugees, returnees and displaced persons and their communities so as to achieve fair and equitable access to food and other forms of material assistance, and expresses concern in regard to situations in which minimum standards of assistance are not met, including those in which adequate needs assessments have yet to be undertaken;

16. *Also reaffirms* that respect by States for their protection responsibilities towards refugees is strengthened by international solidarity involving all members of the international community and that the refugee protection regime is enhanced

[9] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/56/12/Add.1), chap. III, sect. B.

through committed international cooperation in a spirit of solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing among all States;

17. *Further reaffirms* that host States have the primary responsibility to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, calls upon States, in cooperation with international organizations, within their mandates, to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection and, in particular, to ensure that the civilian and humanitarian nature of refugee camps is not compromised by the presence or the activities of armed elements or used for purposes that are incompatible with their civilian character, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue efforts, in consultation with States and other relevant actors, to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of camps;

18. *Condemns* all acts that pose a threat to the personal security and well-being of refugees and asylum-seekers, such as refoulement, unlawful expulsion and physical attacks, calls upon States of refuge, in cooperation with international organizations, where appropriate, to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection, including the humane treatment of asylum-seekers, notes with interest that the High Commissioner has continued to take steps to encourage the development of measures to better ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue those efforts, in consultation with States and other relevant actors;

19. *Deplores* the continuing violence and insecurity which constitute an ongoing threat to the safety and security of staff members of the Office of the High Commissioner and other humanitarian organizations and an obstacle to the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Office and the ability of its implementing partners and other humanitarian personnel to discharge their respective humanitarian functions, urges States, parties to conflict and all other relevant actors to take all necessary measures to protect activities related to humanitarian assistance, prevent attacks on and kidnapping of national and international humanitarian workers and ensure the safety and security of the personnel and property of the Office and that of all humanitarian organizations discharging functions mandated by the Office, and calls upon States to investigate fully any crime committed against humanitarian personnel and bring to justice the persons responsible for such crimes;

20. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the African Union, subregional organizations and all African States, in conjunction with agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the international community, to strengthen and revitalize existing partnerships and forge new ones in support of the protection system for refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced persons;

21. *Also calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the international community and other concerned entities to intensify their support to African Governments through appropriate capacity-building activities, including training of relevant officers, disseminating information about refugee instruments and principles, providing financial, technical and advisory services to accelerate the enactment or amendment and implementation of legislation relating to refugees, strengthening emergency response and enhancing capacities for the coordination of humanitarian activities, in particular those Governments that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers;

22. *Reaffirms* the right of return and the principle of voluntary repatriation, appeals to countries of origin and countries of asylum to create conditions that are conducive to voluntary repatriation, and recognizes that, while voluntary repatriation remains the pre-eminent solution, local integration and third-country resettlement, where appropriate and feasible, are also viable options for dealing with the situation of African refugees who, owing to prevailing circumstances in their respective countries of origin, are unable to return home;

23. *Also reaffirms* that voluntary repatriation should not necessarily be conditioned on the accomplishment of political solutions in the country of origin in order not to impede the exercise of the refugees' right to return, recognizes that the voluntary repatriation and reintegration process is normally guided by the conditions in the country of origin, in particular that voluntary repatriation can be accomplished in conditions of safety and dignity, and urges the High Commissioner to promote sustainable return through the development of durable and lasting solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations;

24. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide financial and material assistance that allows for the implementation of community-based development programmes that benefit both refugees and host communities, as appropriate, in agreement with host countries and consistent with humanitarian objectives;

25. *Appeals* to the international community to respond positively, in the spirit of solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to the third-country resettlement needs of African refugees, notes in this regard the importance of using resettlement strategically, as part of situation-specific comprehensive responses to refugee situations, and to this end encourages States, the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant partners to make full use of the Multilateral Framework of Understandings on Resettlement,[10] where appropriate;

26. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide material and financial assistance for the implementation of programmes intended for the rehabilitation of the environment and infrastructure affected by refugees in countries of asylum as well as internally displaced persons where appropriate;

27. *Urges* the international community, in the spirit of international solidarity and burden-sharing, to continue to fund generously the refugee programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner and, taking into account the substantially increased needs of programmes in Africa, inter alia as a result of repatriation possibilities, to ensure that Africa receives a fair and equitable share of the resources designated for refugees;

28. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner and interested States to identify protracted refugee situations which might lend themselves to resolution through the development of specific, multilateral, comprehensive and practical approaches to resolving such refugee situations, including improvement of international burden- and responsibility-sharing and realization of durable solutions, within a multilateral context;

29. *Expresses grave concern* about the plight of internally displaced persons in Africa, notes the efforts of African States in strengthening the regional mechanisms for protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, calls

[10] Available from www.unhcr.org.

upon States to take concrete action to pre-empt internal displacement and to meet the protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons, recalls in that regard the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,[11] takes note of the current activities of the Office of the High Commissioner related to protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions and should not undermine the refugee mandate of the Office and the institution of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his dialogue with States on the role of his Office in this regard;

30. *Invites* the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons to continue his ongoing dialogue with Member States and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in accordance with his mandate, and to include information thereon in his reports to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly;

31. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session, taking fully into account the efforts expended by countries of asylum, under the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions".

[11] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.